



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

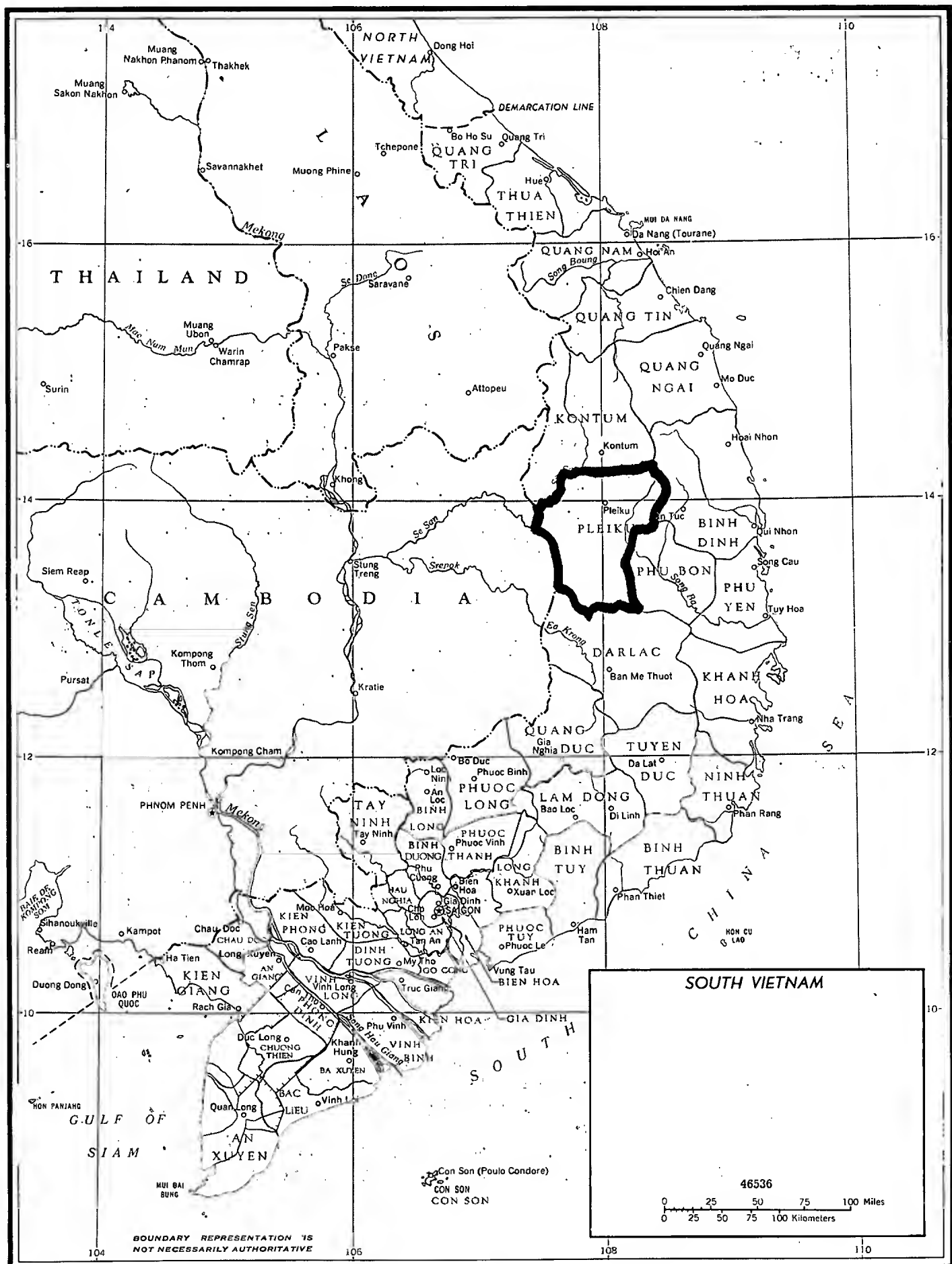
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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15 NOVEMBER 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Indonesia

The army and other anti-Communist political elements do not seem to have been cowed by Sukarno's recent statements, but neither are they yet resolved to meet him head on.

Sukarno met with the armed forces chiefs again this morning. The only result announced was a decision to call in all military and police commanders for a briefing by Sukarno next Saturday.

The army meanwhile is keeping the pressure on the Communists.

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Even the normally docile Indonesian parliament has called for a formal ban on the Communists.

Despite these developments, some leaders are worried that the anti-Communist parties are becoming more cautious.

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2. South Vietnam

There was further fierce fighting today between US and Communist forces near the embattled special forces camp at Plei Me. Communist losses in this latest action have been heavy. The body count of enemy dead now stands at 376 and the total probably runs a good deal higher. Once more tactical air and artillery support helped swell the enemy casualty lists.

the opposing force includes two battalions of North Vietnamese troops. Five North Vietnamese have been taken prisoners. Their interrogation raises the possibility that further elements of North Vietnamese regulars have recently been infiltrated. The picture is far from clear, however.

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3. Communist China

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The Chinese may possibly have the materials and technical know-how to set off an experimental thermonuclear device.

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4. Laos

Communist forces have been stirring lately. In the past ten days, they have pushed Laotian Government troops out of positions northeast of Thakhek. These, and other Communist harassing actions nearby, are probably designed to forestall any government push which might interfere with the high priority infiltration routes leading into South Vietnam.

Elsewhere in Laos, friendly tribesmen, who have been keeping pressure on the Communists, helped knock out a Pathet Lao strong point northeast of Luang Prabang last week. The tribesmen are part of a successful counterinsurgency force which has been trained, armed, and guided by the Central Intelligence Agency.

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5. India

The clash between Indian and Chinese troops along the Tibet border, reported in Saturday's Brief, does not seem to have had a serious sequel. Each government has issued only the conventional protest statements

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6. Rhodesia

One of Rhodesia's African nationalist groups failed in an attempt to organize a one-day general strike in the Salisbury area this morning. Two buses were attacked with gasoline bombs last night. Otherwise the local situation is outwardly under control.

Zambian President Kaunda evidently is under severe pressure to take strong measures, such as a total trade boycott, against Rhodesia. He has continued to stress, however, that he wants to do nothing rash.

He has good reason. A Zambian contingency study completed last week concluded that if Zambia's trade with Rhodesia were cut off, Zambia would have a six weeks food supply, but only 24 days gasoline and 11 days diesel fuel. The government is taking measures to enable it to bring in some gasoline via East Africa.

Over the longer term, coal to fuel Zambia's copper refineries is an equally critical item. All of this coal now comes from Rhodesia. The Rhodesians also could cut off 98 percent of Zambia's electricity if they wished to do so. The power plant is physically in Rhodesia, although it was built under an international agreement.

Most other black African governments are still breathing fire at the white Rhodesians.

7. Congo

President Kasavubu appears to be counterpunching quickly following the defeat of Prime Minister Kimba's cabinet by Tshombé's parliamentary forces yesterday.

Kasavubu today asked Kimba to try to form a new cabinet. Having failed once, Kimba would be unlikely to get parliament's approval again at this time, but the parliamentary session ends on 6 December. Constitutionally Kimba would not have to face a vote before then.

Although Leopoldville is calm, our embassy there sees a danger that Kasavubu may revert to strong-arm tactics to intimidate Tshombé's supporters and Tshombé might retaliate in kind. The embassy is using its influence to avoid such developments.

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8. Cyprus

The Greek defense minister says that Athens can no longer resist pressure from the Greek Cypriots to install Soviet surface-to-air missiles in Cyprus.

It remains to be seen whether, as Athens has hoped, Greek Army personnel will man the missile sites and thus exercise some control over the weapons, or whether the Greek Cypriots will insist on taking this on themselves.

9. Dominican Republic

Only one bomb throwing marred a quiet Sunday in Santo Domingo.

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The leftists failed miserably in an attempt Saturday to mount a demonstration to re-open the offices of a banned Communist newspaper.

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